

Arizona Department of Health Services
Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response

**Mass Fatalities Conference
July 18-19, 2007
Phoenix, Arizona**

“Developing a comprehensive and compassionate response”

Speaker Biography

Barbara Butcher

Barbara Butcher is Chief of Staff and Director of Forensic Investigations at the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, where she has worked since 1992. She directs Medico Legal Investigations, Disaster Planning and Mass Fatality Management, WTC 9/11 Victim Recovery and Identification, Evidence and Missing Persons. As Deputy Director of Investigations she coordinated the remains recovery effort after WTC 9/11 both on-site and off for the agency. During the height of the disaster, she also helped manage the response to the crash of Flight 587 that resulted in 265 deaths. Ms. Butcher was the lead investigator for OCME following the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center.

Last year Ms. Butcher worked in Geneva for the W.H.O. with an international committee of experts to formulate policy and plans for mass casualty/fatality events. Following the Tsunami disaster, she went to Thailand with the Chief Medical Examiner of New York on behalf of W.H.O. to assist in victim identification and returned the following month to speak on Mass Fatality Management to an international audience convened by the United Nations and W.H.O. Following the Underground bombings, she was invited by the London police to view their operation and to share information on victim recovery and identification. As a keynote speaker at the Norwegian Disaster Management Conference she established relationships with experts from several nations and was active in developing policy for fatality management. Recently, she joined the faculty of Louisiana State University as a lecturer at the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training, Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education.

As an investigator at OCME, Ms. Butcher personally investigated more than 5,500 death scenes and 680 homicides. She was the senior trainer for physicians and investigators in the Forensic Teaching Program and is now an Assistant Adjunct Professor at the New York University School of Medicine. She lectures extensively at the New York City Police Department, government agencies and multiple universities on death scene investigation, disaster planning, mass fatality management and identification, homicide and criminal investigation.

Ms. Butcher holds a Masters degree in Public Health from Columbia University in New York and a Bachelors degree in Science from Long Island University. She obtained advanced skills through participation in special training at the FBI Academy and New York City Police Department. Since the 911 World Trade Center attack she has taken additional training on a Federal level and is certified in Incident Command, Mass Fatality Management, Weapons of Mass Destruction, Bioterrorism and Terrorist Bombing.